

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, July 19, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding.

Present: William Mays, Joseph Fawbush, and Terry Roop

Absent: Mark Caruso and Joseph Hunnicutt

Also Present: E. W. Ward, City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Rev. Ken Taylor and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by the Assistant City Manager, Fred L. Ramey, Jr.

At this time, Councilman Hunnicutt took his seat on Council.

25106

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the June 21, 2011 meeting as corrected. In Paragraph #25105, the meeting date for the August meeting should have read August 16th and not August 26th.

25107

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Buzz Witt spoke briefly to Council expressing his appreciation to Council for the work that had been done on the trails. He then gave an update on the Spearhead Rendezvous and of upcoming activities. He also asked that Council consider the possibility of becoming ATV friendly and presented council members, the City Manager, and Assistant City Manager with t-shirts.

25108

Mr. Witt advised he would be happy to answer any questions from Council and thanked them for their time.

Ms. Patty Ross Absher, 5947 Absher Road, Big Stone Gap, Va., and a teacher at J. I. Burton High School, spoke to Council advising of some the conditions at J. I. Burton High School. She advised that the room she teaches in has no air conditioning, some water fountains do not work, and the roof continues to leak.

25109

Mayor Mays advised these issues should be given to the City of Norton School Board and Ms. Absher advised that she had.

A public hearing was held on soliciting public input on the Regional Water Supply Plan as pertains to the City of Norton and the consideration of a resolution approving the same.

Mr. Ward advised that the Virginia State Water Control Board Regulation 9 VAC 25-780, Local and Regional Water Supply Planning, is requiring all counties, cities, and towns in the Commonwealth to prepare and submit a water supply plan to the Department of Environmental Quality. The City, being a participant in the Cumberland Plateau, LENOWISCO, and Mount Rogers Regional Water Supply Planning Group as reported to DEQ by letter in 2008, will be a participant in the Regional Water Supply Plan submitted by this organization on or before November 2, 2011.

25110

There were no questions or comments from Council prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Mays opened the public hearing.

There being no public comment, Mayor Mays closed the public hearing.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Approving the Cumberland Plateau, LENOWISCO, and Mount Rogers Regional Water Supply Plan. (Insert)

Mr. David Dawson of Thompson and Litton, gave Council a brief update on the Upper Norton Reservoir Dam Project.

Prior to Mr. Dawson's update, Mr. Ward again strongly urged citizens to conserve water. We currently have approximately 66 million gallons of water.

Mr. Dawson, via a PowerPoint presentation, advised that the project began on May 16th and should be completed this fall. He advised that the violent storms the City has experienced have impacted the progress of the project.

Following his update, Mr. Dawson advised he would be happy to answer any questions Council may have.

There were no questions from Council; however Mayor Mays urged citizens to conserve water during this project.

In their packets, Council had been presented with A Resolution Approving the Planning District One Community Services Board Performance Contract.

Mr. Ward advised this agency assists individuals with mental illness, mental retardation, and substance abuse problems and the City's representative on this Board is Ms. Sarah Davis.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES: Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Approving the Planning District One Community Services Board Performance Contract. (Insert)

Council had a request from Fig Enterprises, LLC for one sewer tap at the location of 4824 Kentucky Avenue, which is located in the county.

Following a brief discussion and upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to approve one sewer tap in the county area of Ramsey to Fig Enterprises.

There was a request for the authorization for the Mayor to execute easement documents as pertains to the Guest River and Benges Branch Sewer Projects. The City Attorney advised that there are five of these easements to be signed tonight.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Hunnicutt, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to authorize the Mayor to execute easement documents as pertains to the Guest River and Benges Branch Sewer Projects.

Councilman Roop asked the Mayor if he could speak prior to Council's going into closed meeting. Mayor Mays advised he could do so. Councilman Roop acknowledged a group of individuals present at tonight's meeting, who did not speak. He speculated

that he thought they were present expecting Council to discuss or act on a written plan regarding school consolidation with Wise County. He further stated that Council agrees to wait to get information and answers to questions from the School Board on the consolidation issue. As to the work needed to be done at J. I. Burton High School, he urged these citizens to go back to the School Board and ask them to give City Council a plan on the repairs so that Council, in turn, can see if they can find money for these repairs.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

25116

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting.

25117

Mayor Mays declared Council back in open meeting.

The Clerk polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering yes. The Clerk then read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting.

25118

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Hunnicutt, Fawbush, Roop, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Caruso, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Southwest Virginia Regional Recreation Authority for a three year term, which will expire on June 30, 2014.

Councilman Roop nominated William “Buzz” Witt to be reappointed to this Board.

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

25119

Mayor Mays declared William “Buzz” Witt reappointed to the Southwest Virginia Regional Recreation Authority for a three year term, which will expire on June 30, 2014.

Mayor Mays opened the floor for nominations to the Community Corrections Resources Board for a two year term, which will expire on June 30, 2013.

Councilman Fawbush nominated James Lane.

25120

Upon a motion by Councilman Hunnicutt, seconded by Councilman Roop, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Mays declared James Lane to be reappointed to the Community Corrections Resources Board for a two year term, which will expire on June 30, 2013.

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ward advised that:

Advertisement has been done on the Guest River Project Phase 3 and 4 and Benges II. This is an extremely important project to the City as it will complete and upgrade our main interceptor line to the Guest River line and main interceptor line going from West

Main to the Josephine Pump Station. The cost of this project is over five million dollars, most of which is grant money through USDA Rural Development. Hopefully when the bids are in and the easements are signed, the City will be ready to close on the project.

He had attended a Southwest Virginia Regional Jail Authority meeting and was advised that the City will receive, in August, a check in the amount of \$25,606.68 as a financial reconciliation for 2010-2011. This refund is due to the City for being under the projected number of inmates. This check will be deposited in the General Fund.

25121

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw gave an update on upcoming tax sales. He expressed his appreciation to the City Treasurer and Commissioner of Revenue for their assistance on this matter.

25122

In comments from City Council, Councilman Roop inquired about the cost for the Norton Metering Station and if the City was responsible for it. He was advised by Councilman Hunnicutt that the User Agreement states it is the responsibility of the C-N-W Regional Wastewater Authority.

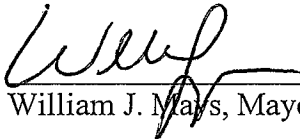
25123

He commented that the Sales Tax Revenue for the year were stagnant and down from last year and expressed hopes that it will improve.

Also, Councilman Roop stated he had seen where the Commonwealth of Virginia will have between \$200,000,000 and \$300,000,000 in surplus and stated it would be good if some of this surplus was given to localities for education.

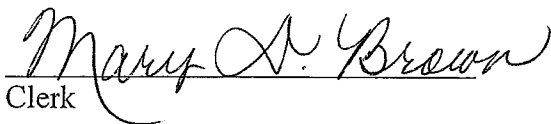
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk